

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of treating SARS-coronavirus infection, comprising administering an effective amount of an interferon to a patient, wherein the interferon is IFN α -n1, IFN α -n3, human leukocyte IFN α or IFN β -1b.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the interferon is recombinant.
3. The method of claim 2 wherein the interferon is recombinantly produced in *E. coli*.
4. The method of claim 2 wherein the interferon is recombinantly produced in mammalian cells.
5. The method of any one of claims 1 to 4 further comprising administering an additional antiviral agent in combination with the interferon.
6. The method of claim 5 wherein the additional antiviral agent is ribavirin.
7. Use of an effective amount of an interferon for treating SARS-coronavirus infection, wherein the interferon is IFN α -n1, IFN α -n3, human leukocyte IFN α or IFN β -1b.
8. Use of an effective amount of an interferon in the manufacture of a medicament for treating SARS-coronavirus infection, wherein the interferon is IFN α -n1, IFN α -n3, human leukocyte IFN α or IFN β -1b.
9. The use of claim 7 or 8 wherein the interferon is recombinant.
10. The use of claim 9 wherein the interferon is recombinantly produced in *E. coli*.
11. The use of claim 9 wherein the interferon is recombinantly produced in mammalian cells.
12. The use of any one of claims 7 to 11 wherein the interferon is used in combination

with an additional antiviral agent.

13. The use of claim 12 wherein the additional antiviral agent is ribavirin.
14. A method of inhibiting SARS-coronavirus infection, comprising administering an interferon to a cell capable of being infected with SARS-CoV, wherein the interferon is IFN α -n1, IFN α -n3, human leukocyte IFN α or IFN β -1b.
15. The method of claim 14 wherein the interferon is recombinant.
16. The method of claim 15 wherein the interferon is recombinantly produced in *E. coli*.
17. The method of claim 15 wherein the interferon is recombinantly produced in mammalian cells.
18. The method of any one of claims 14 to 17 wherein the cell is in a patient.
19. The method of any one of claims 14 to 17 wherein the cell is a cell in vitro.
20. The method of claim 19 wherein the cell is a VERO 6 cell, a peripheral blood leukocyte or a THP-1 monocyte.
21. The method of any one of claims 14 to 20 further comprising administering to the cell an additional antiviral agent in combination with the interferon.
22. The method of claim 21 wherein the additional antiviral agent is ribavirin.
23. Use of an interferon for inhibiting SARS-coronavirus infection, wherein the interferon is IFN α -n1, IFN α -n3, human leukocyte IFN α or IFN β -1b.
24. Use of an interferon in the manufacture of a medicament for inhibiting SARS-coronavirus infection, wherein the interferon is IFN α -n1, IFN α -n3, human leukocyte IFN α or IFN β -1b.
25. The use of claim 23 or 24 wherein the interferon is recombinant.

26. The use of claim 25 wherein the interferon is recombinantly produced in *E. coli*.
27. The use of claim 25 wherein the interferon is recombinantly produced in mammalian cells.
28. The use of any one of claims 23 to 27 wherein the cell is in a patient.
29. The use of any one of claims 23 to 27 wherein the cell is an in vitro cell.
30. The use of claim 29 wherein the cell is a VERO 6 cell, a peripheral blood leukocyte or a THP-1 monocyte.
31. The use of any one of claims 23-30 wherein the interferon is used in combination with an additional antiviral agent.
32. The use of claim 31 wherein the additional antiviral agent is ribavirin.
33. A kit comprising an interferon and instructions for using the interferon to treat SARS-coronavirus infection, wherein the interferon is IFN α -n1, IFN α -n3, human leukocyte IFN α or IFN β -1b.
34. A kit comprising an interferon and instructions for using the interferon to inhibit SARS-coronavirus infection, wherein the interferon is IFN α -n1, IFN α -n3, human leukocyte IFN α or IFN β -1b.
35. The kit of claim 33 or 34 wherein the interferon is recombinant.
36. The kit of claim 35 wherein the interferon is recombinantly produced in *E. coli*.
37. The kit of claim 35 wherein the interferon is recombinantly produced in mammalian cells.
38. The kit of any one of claims 33 to 37 further comprising an additional antiviral agent.
39. The kit of claim 38 wherein the additional antiviral agent is ribavirin.